

X-MEN

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SEPT

THE STRANGEST **TEENS** OF ALL!

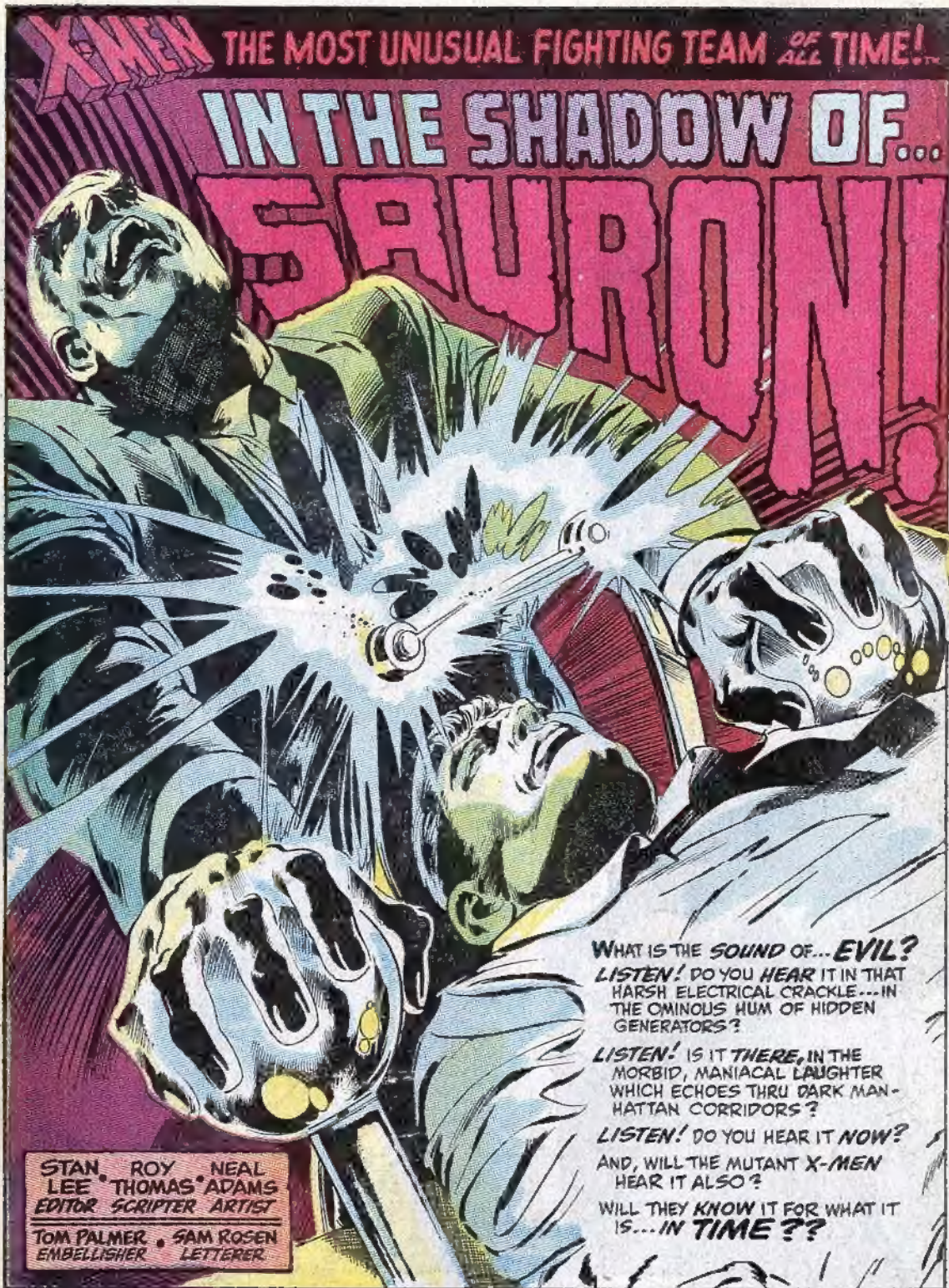
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
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X-MEN

IN THE
SHADOW
OF...
SAURON

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP





X-MEN THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM *OF ALL TIME!*

IN THE SHADOW OF... **SAURON!**

STAN ROY NEAL
LEE THOMAS ADAMS
EDITOR SCRIPTER ARTIST

TOM PALMER • SAM ROSEN
EMBELLISHER LETTERER

WHAT IS THE SOUND OF... EVIL?

LISTEN! DO YOU HEAR IT IN THAT
HARSH ELECTRICAL CRACKLE...IN
THE OMINOUS HUM OF HIDDEN
GENERATORS?

LISTEN! IS IT THERE, IN THE
MORBID, MANIACAL LAUGHTER
WHICH ECHOES THRU DARK MAN-
HATTAN CORRIDORS?

LISTEN! DO YOU HEAR IT NOW?
AND, WILL THE MUTANT X-MEN
HEAR IT ALSO?

WILL THEY KNOW IT FOR WHAT IT
IS... **IN TIME??**

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ONLY MINUTES AGO, IN A ROCK-HEWN CHAMBER FAR FROM THE HAUNTS OF MEN, THE SUPER-POWERED YOUTHS WON A VICTORY OVER ONE OF THE MANY HEADS OF EVIL...!*

DARE WE BLAME THEM, THEN, IF THEY HARDLY SUSPECT THAT ANOTHER, MORE MALIG-NANT HEAD IS EVEN NOW A-BORNING...?

NO, CYCLOPS, I CAN'T DEPART WITH YOU!

YET, I MUST REMAIN TO UNDO THE DAMAGE WHICH THEY WROUGHT!

PERHAPS THE MONSTROUS SENTINELS ARE FOREVER DESTROYED...

* LAST ISSUE!
--STAN

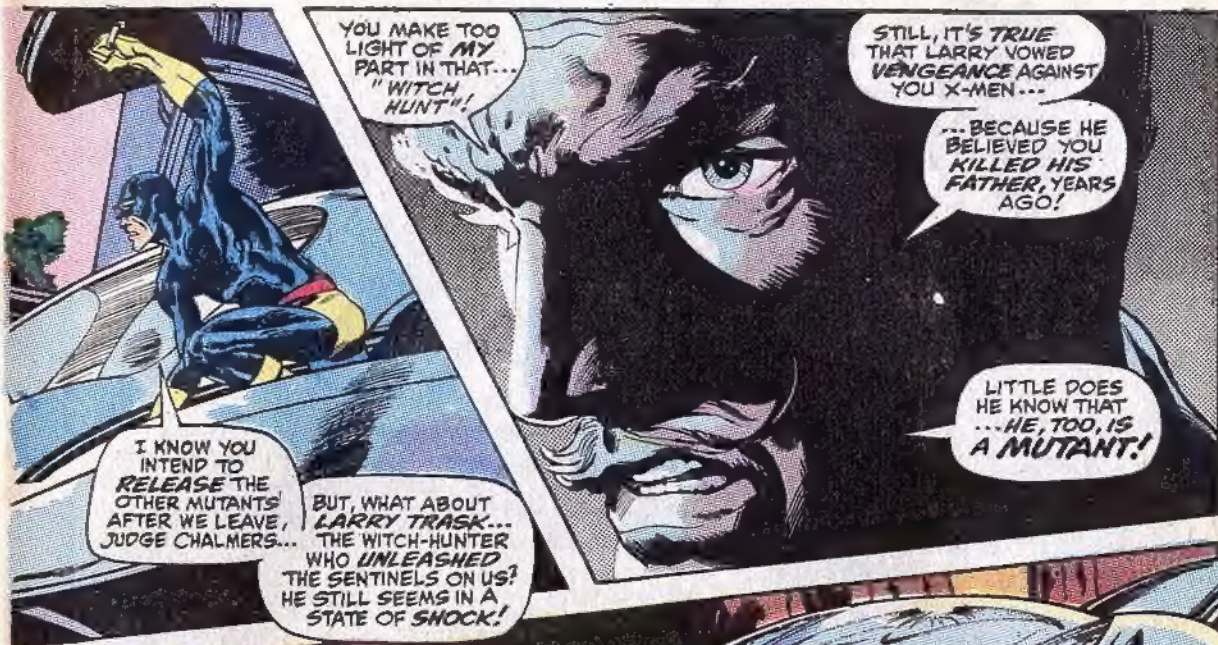
NOR MUST HE EVER SUSPECT THAT SINGLE FATAL FACT!

THE MERE HINT OF IT MIGHT TURN HIS STATE OF SHOCK INTO ONE OF SCHIZOPHRENIA!

LUCKILY, THIS OLD MEDALLION WILL REMOVE THAT MEMORY... AND PERHAPS EASE HIS INNER TORMENT..!

I STILL DON'T GET IT, YOU TWO!

THUS, SCANT SECONDS LATER, ONE OF THE FLEET SENTINEL-SHIPS LURCHES FORWARD...ITS COMPUTER-SPAWNED ROCKETS BELCH OUT WHITE-HOT FLAME ...AND THERE IS A NEW LIFE IN THE SHROUDED UPSTATE SKIES...!



YOU MAKE TOO
LIGHT OF MY
PART IN THAT...
"WITCH
HUNT"!

STILL, IT'S TRUE
THAT LARRY VOWED
VENGEANCE AGAINST
YOU X-MEN...

... BECAUSE HE
BELIEVED YOU
KILLED HIS
FATHER, YEARS
AGO!

LITTLE DOES
HE KNOW THAT
... HE, TOO, IS
A MUTANT!

I KNOW YOU
INTEND TO
RELEASE THE
OTHER MUTANTS
AFTER WE LEAVE,
JUDGE CHALMERS...

BUT, WHAT ABOUT
LARRY TRASK...
THE WITCH-HUNTER
WHO UNLEASHED
THE SENTINELS ON US?
HE STILL SEEMS IN A
STATE OF SHOCK!



I KNOW CYKE'S
BROTHER ALEX
IS HURT... AND
HURT BAD!

BUT, WHY
DID YOU CON-
TACT A MEDIC
ALL THE WAY
IN THE CITY?

HE'S AN OLD
ASSOCIATE OF
PROFESSOR
XAVIER'S,
ANGEL!

THEY ONCE
WORKED
TOGETHER IN A
MYSTERIOUS
ENTERPRISE
CALLED...
PROJECT
MUTANT!

NOW HANG
LOOSE, HEROES...
I'M TAKING THIS
FLYING FISHBOWL
UPSTAIRS!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

BASEBALL FANS ARE CRAZY

about this true-to-life
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Easy to play, real thrilling, exciting baseball with STRAT-O-MATIC. 400 big league players perform according to their actual abilities and your managerial decisions.

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FANS RAVE

Here are just a few of the hundreds of letters we receive every week, from baseball fans aged 8 to 80, from coast to coast!

STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL is the best baseball game I ever have had. Kids swamp over the back porch to play this game! Boy, it is a lot of fun! Thank you for making such a wonderful game. —P. C., Attleboro, Mass.

Just like real baseball. It is fun to play.

—G. V., Cincinnati, O.

As close to realism as one can get and therefore far more superior to other competing baseball games.

—F. T., Manila, P.I.

Although it's fantastically realistic, it's also very simple to play. —A. F., Los Angeles, Calif.

I'm one hundred percent satisfied with it. The game provides hours of fun for me and my friends. It's very realistic, and true to life.

—C. H., Lanett, Ala.

The best baseball game. It is realistic and yet not too difficult to play.

—P. M., Port Huron, Mich.

Thank you for creating such an exciting yet realistic game and putting a shine to what might have been a boring summer.

—N. S., Los Angeles, Calif.

Boys are waiting in line to play the game!

—A. H., Chicago, Ill.

It has given me more pleasure than any other game.

—S. E., Rossville, Ind.

The most exciting and fun game ever.

—L. S., Boston, Mass.

It is so stupendous, words can't explain.

—J. R., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Best on the market.

—J. E., Miami, Fla.

Has given me more enjoyment than I have ever had from any one thing in my entire life. It's worth its weight in gold. As I love baseball, this game gives me something enjoyable to do during the off seasons as well as during the season.

—S. C., Temple City, Calif.

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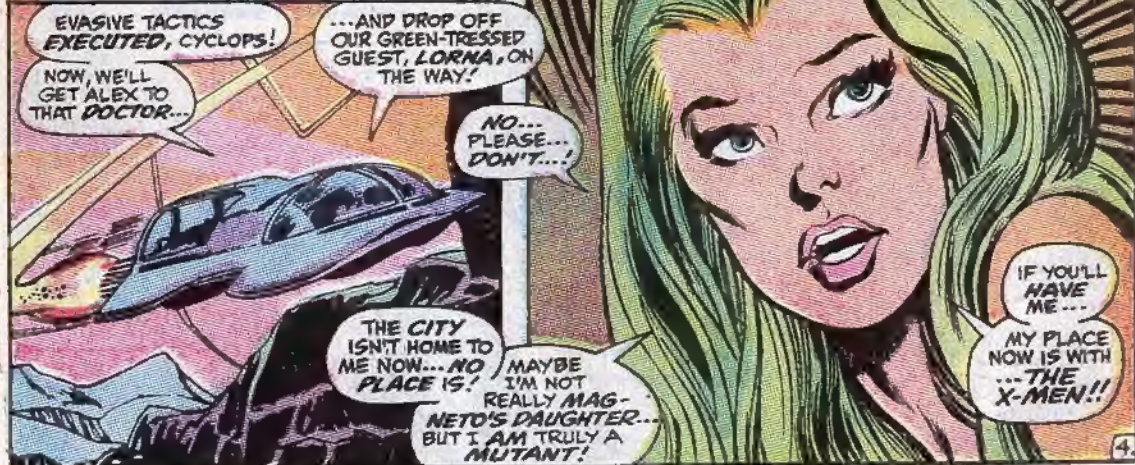


X-MAN! MUTANT! HOMO SUPERIOR!

WORDS THAT PALE THE CHEEK OF A DOUBT-PLAGUED HUMANITY, WHICH HAS EVER HATED THE NEW...THE STRANGE...THE DIFFERENT...FEARED IT AS CREATURES HAVE ALWAYS FEARED THOSE WHO MAY ONE DAY REPLACE THEM!

AND, WHO IS TO SAY THAT MANKIND IS WRONG?

WHAT DID THE LAST NEANDERTHAL SAY TO THE FIRST CRO-MAGNON...?



EVASIVE TACTICS EXECUTED, CYCLOPS!

NOW, WE'LL GET ALEX TO THAT DOCTOR...

...AND DROP OFF OUR GREEN-TRESSED GUEST, LORNA, ON THE WAY!

NO... PLEASE... DON'T...!

THE CITY ISN'T HOME TO ME NOW... NO PLACE IS!

MAYBE I'M NOT REALLY MAGNETO'S DAUGHTER... BUT I AM TRULY A MUTANT!

IF YOU'LL HAVE ME...

MY PLACE NOW IS WITH...THE X-MEN!!



THE LATEST AND GREATEST GOODIES FROM MANIACAL MARVEL!

ITEM: Here's big news for all members of the good ol' Merry Marvel Marching Society, and for those of you who intend to join. Remember years ago, when we started, the MMMS? We promised we wouldn't just swear you in and forget about you. Then what happened? We forgot about you! Naw, we didn't really — but what DID happen is — our mags became so much more popular than we ever dreamed they would, and we became so much busier than we ever expected to, that we just never had the time to do all the things we had hoped to do with our swingin' little club. But, we've managed to change all that now! And the change is so important, that we're gonna give it a paragraph all to itself — just like this —

ITEM: We had the greatest stroke of luck the other day. We met a fanatical Marvelite who also happens to be a most talented California executive. He's so impressed with our mags, and our club membership roster, that he made us a fantastic offer, which we've just accepted. From now on, the MMMS will be incorporated into a fabulous parent organization named MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL! Because of this great new development, there'll be an entire new company, independent of your Bullpen, working around the clock to make your club exactly what you want it to be. So watch for the exciting announcements about Marvelmania International in our mags, and remember — you won't be watching alone. We're as anxious to see what's coming next as you are!

ITEM: Guess who's just returned to the fold? None other than ol' GIL (Sugar) KANE, who's teamed up with Rascally ROY and Dapper DAN ADKINS on the greatest CAPTAIN MARVEL epic of all time! (Well, since yesterday, anyway). You'll be thrilling to a brand-new Mar-Vell starting this month, and you'll have only yourself to blame if you miss it. Not only is Gil's artistry a joy to behold, but it just happens to feature CAPTAIN AMERICA, RICK JONES, and more surprises than you can count. We kid thee not!

ITEM: Speaking of awesome artistry, let's welcome Slammin' SAMMY GRAINGER to the hallowed halls of Marvel. You've already applauded his inimitable inking on various X-MEN and SHIELD strips, but starting now, he's lending his talents to the power-packed pencilling of Our Pal SAL BUSCEMA to carry the mighty AVENGERS to even greater pinnacles of glory! And if you wonder how we'll manage it, what with Sal living in Virginia and the Slammer nestled way down in North Carolina, we can only say — it won't be easy! (Don't be surprised if you hear 'em shout "Avengers Assemble, y'all!" from now on!)

ITEM: Hey, did we tell you about Adorable ARTIE SIMEK? Or, perhaps you've already caught him on the nighttime Alan Burke show, where (cross our hearts!) he played the harmonica and spoons! Sly ol' STAN can't wait to ask him how the heck he manages to tune his spoon!

ITEM: Suddenly, the fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR have become the talk of Marveldom! First, everyone flipped over the way we playfully parodied the theme of TV's "The Prisoner" some months back — and now, the FF's adventures on the planet of the Skrulls — with overtones of every vin-

STAN'S SOAPBOX

This is it, gang! An announcement so momentous that it's taken us months to get up the nerve to make it! Starting as soon as possible, we're abandoning our policy of continued stories! Yep, that means we'll try to make every Marvel masterwork complete in each issue! Our mail has been running 50-50 for and against, and since we personally preferred the continued yarns, we kept them going. But, we finally decided that the other 50% of Marveldom should have equal rights, and it's always exciting to make a change. It's gonna make our job much tougher — we'll have to shorten our plots — perhaps tone down our sub-plots, and tighten our pacing. But it's the least we can do for our rollickin' readers, and it'll be fun to see how it works out. A few current tales may take another ish or two to wrap up, and occasionally we may HAVE to present a two-parter — but, by and large, we've given up our continued stories till further notice! Now for the love of Odin, write as soon as you can and tell us how you feel about it. If we're making another bonehead mistake, next month's column may be written by Irving Forbush!

Excelsior!
Smiley

tage gangster movie you've ever seen—are knocking thunder out of its collective tree! Take a bow, LEE and KIRBY — we don't know how you do it — 'specially considering the fact that your Galactus episode in the current THOR is probably the absolute high point in imaginative illustrated fantasy!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvelous Mags On Sale Right Now!

CHAMBER OF DARKNESS #1: Hang on! These are the strangest, scariest, spookiest stories yet!

SILVER SURFER #8: The Surfer actually battles a ghost! Guest-starring Mephisto!

FANTASTIC FOUR #91: See the mighty Thing, enslaved on the planet of the Skrulls!

SPIDER-MAN #77: Spidey and the Human Torch in action together — plus the Lizard!

AVENGERS #68: Our awesome assemblers take on Ultron-6 — while the whole world gasps!

AVENGERS KING-SIZE SPECIAL #3: The immortal saga in which Cap joined the team — plus more, more, MORE!

THOR #168: The mighty Thunder God and gigantic Galactus — face to face at last!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #118: The Falcon fights his first battle — side by side with Cap!

X-MEN #60: The name of our macabre villain is Lykos — and boy, has he got a secret!

DAREDEVIL #56: A masterpiece of mood and mystery, as DD meets the creature called — Death's-Head!

HULK #120: The green-skinned giant takes on the U.S. army — with Maximus at his back!

HULK KING-SIZE SPECIAL #2: Hulk's origin retold! Plus, his first encounter with — the Leader!

IRON MAN #18: It's new vs. old — as Shellhead fights to the death with — himself!

SUB-MARINER #18: Namor and Triton — together again — against the sinister Stalker from space!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #17: Guest-starring Captain America! The most shocking saga of all!

SGT. FURY #70: Blazing into action with the Howlers — here come the Missouri Marauders!

CAPT. SAVAGE #16: "War Is Hell... on Ice!" The Raiders—as you've never seen them before!

MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #23 (Formerly Collector's Item Classics): The F.F. — Doc Strange — and Iron Man! 'Nuff said!

RAWHIDE KID #72: The Kid fights alone — against the blazing six-guns of Mystery Valley!

MILLIE THE MODEL #175: CHILI #6: and MAD ABOUT MILLIE #3: Gals, gags, and goofy goings-on!

OUR LOVE STORY #1: There won't be a dry eye in town! If you're a lover, baby — here's where it's at!

AND, STILL ON SALE—

TOWER OF SHADOWS #1: Maddening mystery by Lee, Steranko, Buscema, Craig! Like wow!

DR. STRANGE #182: The master of magic faces Nightmare — Eternity — and Juggernaut!

SHIELD #14: Nick Fury must face the combined might of Hydra and Shield! But how?

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #22: A complete Lee-Kirby X-Men, plus a full-length Daredevil!

MARVEL TALES #22: Spider-Man vs. the Green Goblin! Not to mention Thor — and the Torch!

MY LOVE #1: For everyone who loves to look at groovy chicks — and who doesn't?

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THE HOUSE
OF IDEAS, AS
MIGHTY
MARVEL
MOVES
AHEAD!**



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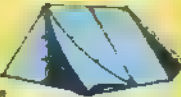
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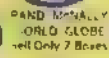
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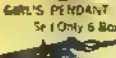
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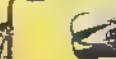
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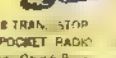
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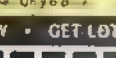
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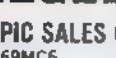
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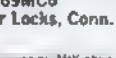
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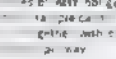
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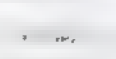
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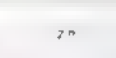
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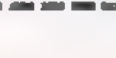
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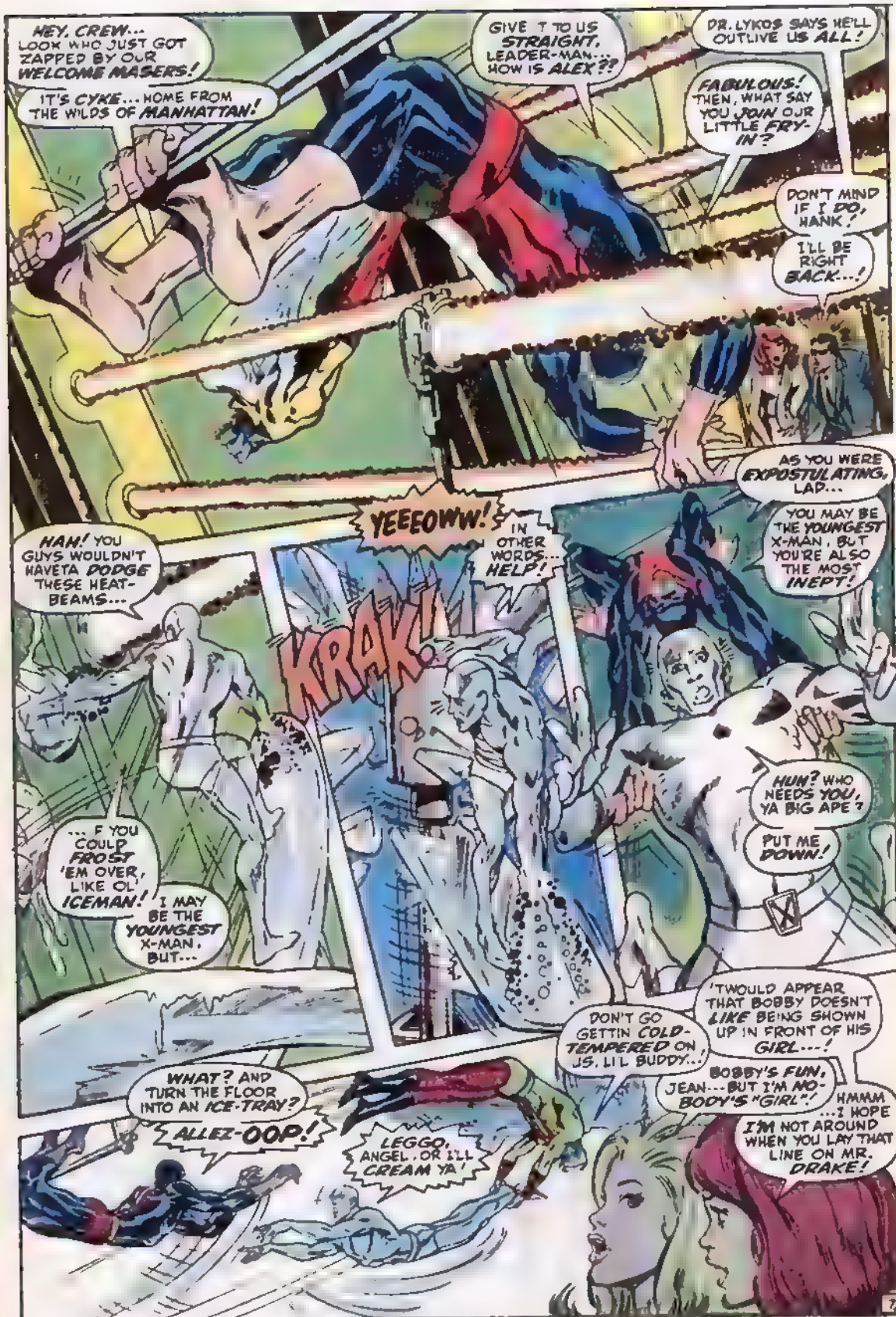
Enclose a check for \$1.00 or a money order. Send me the FREE Sample Book, FREE Membership Card and FREE Catalog of Prizes. I will be glad to give you complete details on how to get these prizes and cash.

MY NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____



HEY, CREW...
LOOK WHO JUST GOT
ZAPPED BY OUR
WELCOME MASERS!

IT'S CYKE... HOME FROM
THE WILDS OF MANHATTAN!

GIVE T TO US
STRAIGHT,
LEADER-MAN...
HOW IS ALEX??

DR. LYKOS SAYS HE'LL
OUTLIVE US ALL!

FABULOUS!
THEN, WHAT SAY
YOU JOIN OUR
LITTLE FRY-
IN?

DON'T MIND
IF I DO,
HANK!

I'LL BE
RIGHT
BACK...!

AS YOU WERE
EXPLOSTULATING,
LAD...

YOU MAY BE
THE YOUNGEST
X-MAN, BUT
YOU'RE ALSO
THE MOST
INEPT!

HAN! YOU
GUYS WOULDN'T
HAVETA DODGE
THESE HEAT-
BEAMS...

YEEOWW!

IN
OTHER
WORDS...
HELP!

KRAK!

... IF YOU
COULD
FROST
'EM OVER,
LIKE OL'
ICEMAN!

I MAY
BE THE
YOUNGEST
X-MAN,
BUT...

HUN? WHO
NEEDS YOU,
YA BIG APE?

PUT ME
DOWN!

'TWOULD APPEAR
THAT BOBBY DOESN'T
LIKE BEING SHOWN
UP IN FRONT OF HIS
GIRL...!

DON'T GO
GETTIN COLD-
TEMPERED ON
JS, LIL BUDDY..!

BOBBY'S FUN,
JEAN... BUT I'M NO
BODY'S "GIRL"!

HHMM... I HOPE
I'M NOT AROUND
WHEN YOU LAY THAT
LINE ON MR.
DRAKE!

WHAT? AND
TURN THE FLOOR
INTO AN ICE-TRAY?

ALLEZ-OOP!

LEGGO,
ANGEL... OR I'LL
CREAM YA!



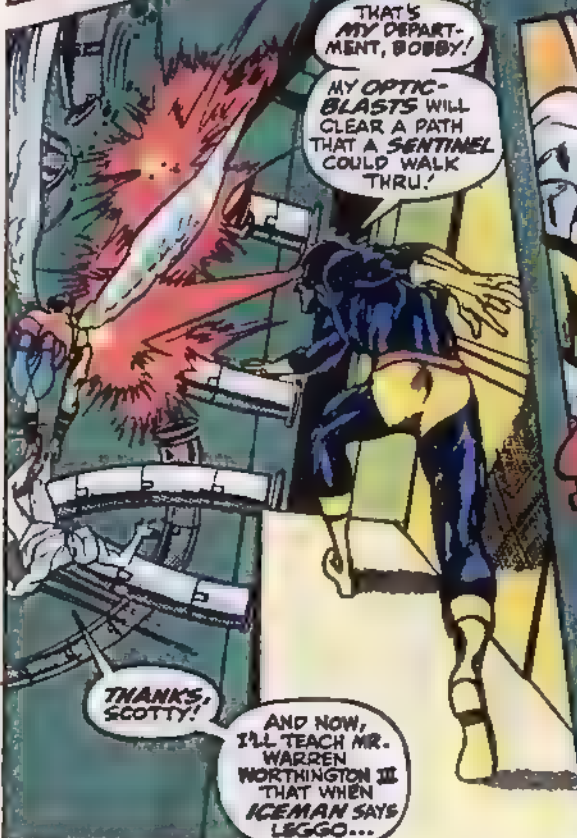
IN THE MEANTIME, WHAT SAY WE PUT THE **SQUEEZE** ON THE SO-CALLED STRONGER SEX?

THERE'S **ANOTHER** TEST-DEVICE HIDDEN BEHIND THAT WALL...

PLEASE LET ME **ACTIVATE** IT, JEAN... **MAGNETICALLY!**

MY POWERS HAD **FADED** BEFORE, BUT NOW I FEEL SOMEHOW... **REJUVENATED!**

I'D LIKE TO DO A BIT OF **TESTING MYSELF...**



THAT'S MY DEPARTMENT, **BOBBY!**

MY **OPTIC-BLASTS** WILL CLEAR A PATH THAT A **SENTINEL** COULD WALK THRU.

THANKS, **SCOTTY!**

AND NOW, I'LL TEACH MR. WARREN WORTHINGTON III THAT WHEN **ICEMAN** SAYS **LEGGO...**



HOLY HANNAH!

WHERE'D ALL THESE **METAL TENTACLES** COME FROM?

YOU JUST GET US **THRU** 'EM, HUH?

FROM OUTTA THE **WOODWORK**, FEATHER-BRAIN!

DON'T MIND IF I **DO**, SON!

NOW, CARE TO **HITCH A RIDE**, CYKE?

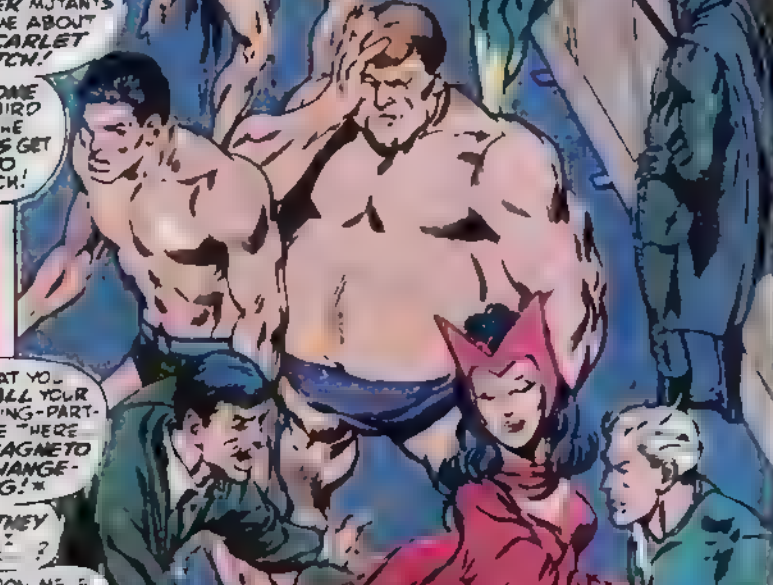
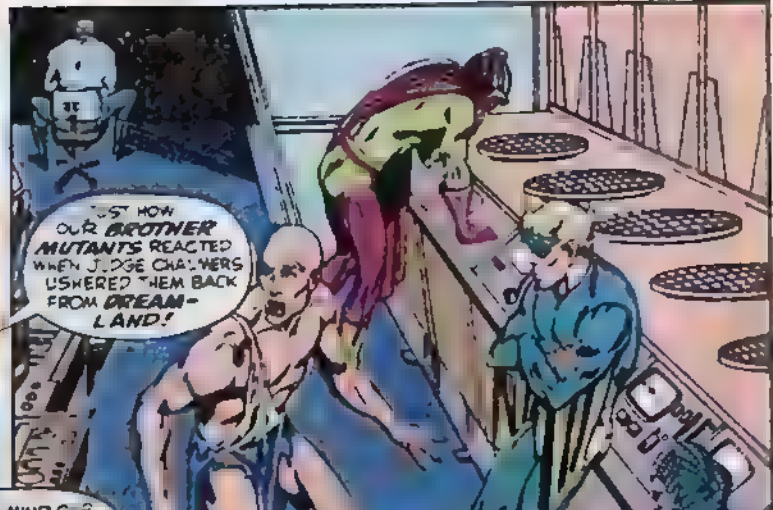
...HE **MEANS** **LEGGO!!**

SPLATCH!

THAT WAS **GROOVY**, MISS GREY.

BUT, I HATE TO SEE **CYCLOPS** ESCAPE UN-SCATHED!

NOT TO WORRY, MISS DANE...

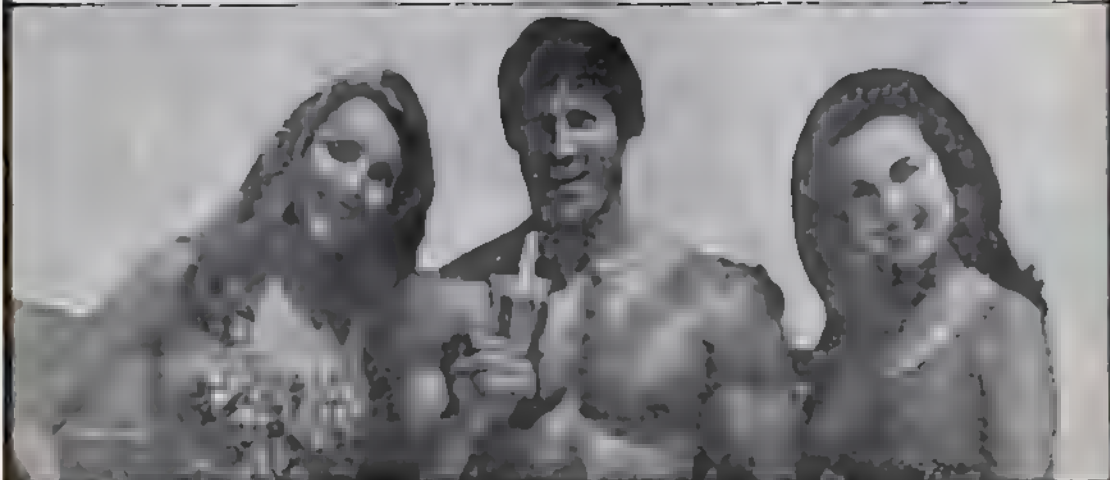


*THE VANISHER, AT "STAGE RIGHT" WAS A LAST MINUTE ARRIVAL. WE FORGOT TO SHOW LAST SH... STAY

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

Tired of Being 'SKINNY'?

DRINK ON POUNDS OF WEIGHT FAST—THE FUN WAY!



GAINS OF UP TO A POUND A DAY PROVEN BY THOUSANDS

IT'S DELICIOUS! IT'S WILD! The new taste-sensation "CRASH WEIGHT GAINING PLAN" developed by Joe Weider, "Trainer of Champions", "Architect of Beauty" helps you drink on pounds... UP TO A POUND A DAY easily and enjoyably while you rest, relax, watch TV, sleep. Men, women and children... see measurable gains instantly and say goodbye to your skinny, undesirable string-bean body... NOW!



HERE'S LIVING PROOF IT WORKS— FAST

Used with amazing results by tens of thousands of men, women and children for more than 7 years! Now, you too can take this guaranteed way to build up your caloric intake for fast and substantial weight gains!



GAINS 10 LBS IN 14 DAYS!

The before photo shows how my physique was before I started the Crash Weight Plan, and gained 10 pounds. What more could a guy ask for? I did not add a pound of fat. Crash Weight Formula is the only weight gain supplement that works. You can gain 10 pounds in 14 days.

SHOULD I THIS HAPPEN TO YOU?

GAINS 14 LBS IN 14 DAYS!

After 14 days of the Crash Weight Plan, I gained 14 pounds. I was able to add a few pounds here and there. You want it easy, enjoyable without stuffing yourself and counting calories?

SHOULD I THIS HAPPEN TO YOU?

DO-IT-YOUR-SELF GAIN-A- POUND A-DAY KIT!



This is a 1-day supply of Crash Weight. Each 100 of weight gain supplement that can smash the weight-gain barrier! You want to gain a pound a day? Well, a pound a day! Maybe you just want to add a few pounds here and there? You want it easy, enjoyable without stuffing yourself and counting calories?

NOW YOU CAN

It's simply wild... AND IT WORKS!

You too can harness this amazing Crash Weight Formula. 17 Pounds and more in as little as a pound a day. Many people are ordering it. They just can't say goodbye to your string-bean looks with this sensational new plan. NO! NO! NO! No more starving yourself with rich, heavy foods to force food calories into your system. Using 4 delicious glasses of natural-tasting Crash Weight Formula 17 Pounds is added to your regular meals. Follow Crash Weight Plan as directed in the free booklet and you can drink on the pounds, with added (and very) added with most household food ingredients, up to 1700 calories using only your regular caloric intake. Then take it easy with your meal, increase or water. This caloric powered weight gaining diet and the Formula 17 Plan is all the work going on weight for you.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE EDITION

Kit #100-1700 Dept. 83-9984
Street
Box 100-1700 Dept. 83-9984

Order Kit #100-1700 Dept. 83-9984 for your Crash Weight Formula 17 Plan which has the real bonus 17 Pounds in 14 Days. Each 100 of weight gain supplement that can smash the weight-gain barrier! (Check one of the Plans below)
1-Day Supply of Crash Weight \$ 7.50
14-Day Supply of Crash Weight \$14.98
27-Day Supply of Crash Weight \$24.98
Crash Weight Formula 17 Plan

NAME _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
Please print clearly

IT'S NEW IT'S HOT! JOIN THE WEIGHT GAINABLES! DRINK ON POUNDS-FAST! SAFELY!



... THE PATIENT'S
WOUNDS ARE
BANDAGED!

YOU MAY **LEAVE**
FOR THE DAY, NURSE!

BUT, DOCTOR.
IT'S JUST
ONE O'CLOCK!

IT'S SO
EARLY...

EARLY?

ON THE
CONTRARY,
MISS HODGES
... IT MAY BE
LATER THAN
YOU THINK...

MUCH
LATER THAN
ANYONE
DARES
THINK!

... **ALONE...**
THANK THE
LORD!

COULDN'T RISK
THAT PESKY **NURSE**
OF MINE HANGING
AROUND... PERHAPS
BECOMING
SUSPICIOUS!

FOR, AT
LAST... ONE
OF THEM
MAY HAVE
COME TO ME!

AND, IF
SO...

NO!
NOOO!

WHAT YOU
ARE **THINKING**
... ONLY THE
DEVIL WOULD
CONTEMPLATE!

IS THAT WHAT
YOU'VE BECOME
KARL LYKOS... A
FIEND SPAWNED
BY A **FROZEN**
HELL?

FROZEN...
YES... THE
COLD!

THAT'S WHAT
I REMEMBER
MOST ABOUT...
THAT UNHOLY
DAY...

... THE
GNAWING,
NUMBING
COLD...

"THEY CALL IT TIERRA DEL FUEGO... THE LAND OF FIRE... BUT THE FIRE IS GONE NOW FROM THAT FORSAKEN ISLE WHICH SKIRTS THE VERY ANTARCTIC... LEAVING NOTHING BUT STARK, SHEER CLIFFS, AND..."

THE COLD, PAPA!

THE WIND IS SO COLD... I THINK IT CHILLS MY SOUL!

CAN WE NOT STOP FOR A WHILE... SEEK SHELTER...?

NO, MY SON!

HERR ANDERSSSEN DESIRES TO REACH OUR CABIN BEFORE NIGHTFALL!

WE MUST PRESS ON... FOR, HE PAYS ME WELL...

AND WE SHALL NEED MONEY LATER ON... FOR YOUR EDUCATION!

"HERR ANDERSSSEN... WHOSE SMILE HAS ONLY FOR HIS INFANT DAUGHTER, AND WHOSE VOICE WAS AS COLD AS THOSE BITING WINDS..."

... EXCEPT... THAT ONCE...!"

"MY FATHER! WE NEVER PRETENDED TO BE ANYTHING MORE THAN AN EX-SAILOR TURNED EXPLORER'S GUIDE... BUT IN MY EYES HE WAS MORE OF A MAN THAN HERR ANDERSSSEN..."

HERR LYKOS... COME QUICKLY!

MY TANYA... SHE IS MISSING.

"FOR HOURS WE SEARCHED THE FACE OF
THE YAWNING CLIFF, FIRST TOGETHER...
THEN EACH ALONE..."

BUT, IN TIERRA DEL
FUEGO, A STONE
CARRIES FURTHER
THAN A VOICE...
AND EVEN ECHOES
TURN TO ICE...!"

"FINALLY, I DIS-
COVERED A HALF-
HIDDEN TUNNEL,
AND FOLLOWED IT
FOR MANY 'ARDS..."

"THERE WAS ONE
SCREAM... ONLY
ONE... BUT IT FROZE
THE VERY BLOOD IN
MY YOUNG VEINS, AND
I RUSHED BLINDLY
FORWARD, UNTIL
I SAW..."

TANYA!!



I HAD NEVER HEARD OF
THE FLYING MONSTER CALLED
THE PTERANODON.

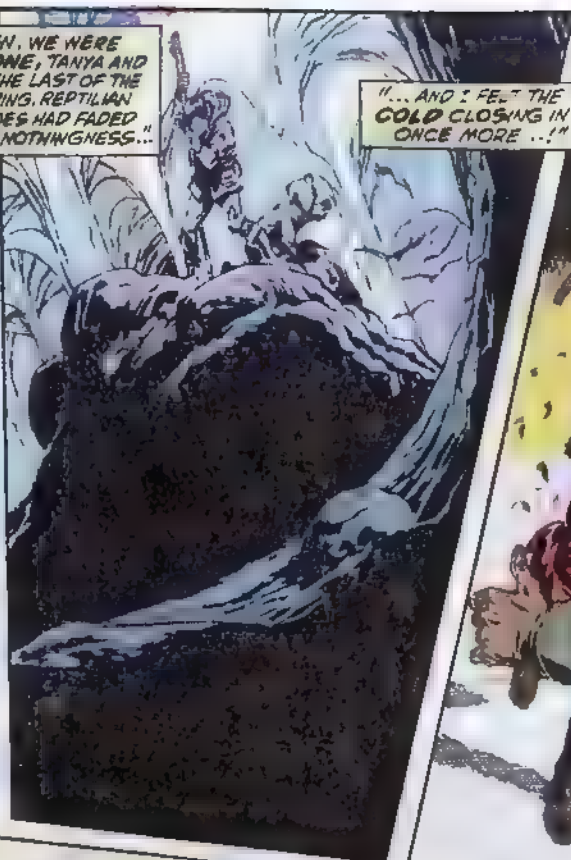
BEFORE THAT MADMAN
YOU WENT AHEAD &
SLEW HIM.

...I SAW ALL BUT
NOTHING OF THE UROSAURUS.
BUT I KNEW FOLLOWED
YOU AND SAW THOSE EYES
BEARING IN THE DARK LIGHT
THE FLAPPING OF HELL-
HOUND WINGS.

AND
THE LARSEN
...
SCREECH
THAT FILLED
THE CAVE WHEN
I WAS A
SECOND OF
THE BEAST.



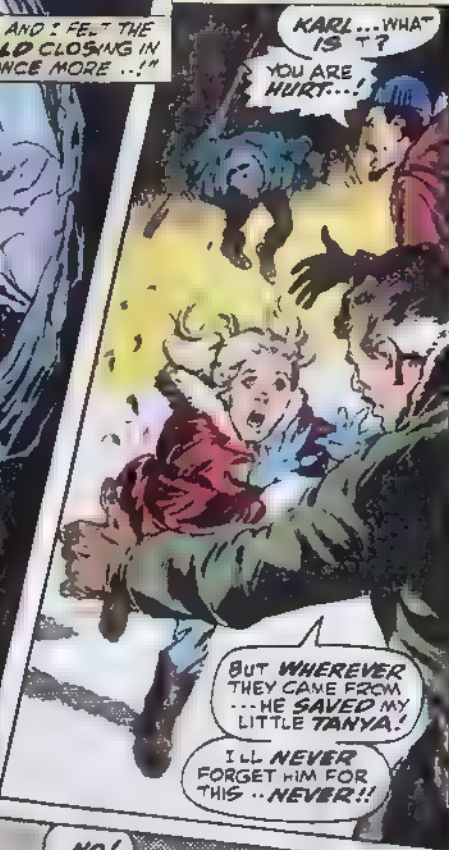
"THEN, WE WERE ALONE, TANYA AND I... THE LAST OF THE RASPING, REPTILIAN ECHOES HAD FADED INTO NOTHINGNESS..."



"... AND I FELT THE COLD CLOSING IN ONCE MORE...!"

"YET, I DID NOT FALL... DID NOT FALTER, UNTIL..."

KARL... WHAT IS IT?
YOU ARE HURT...!

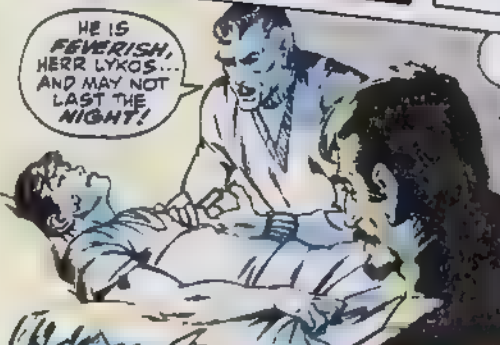


BUT WHEREVER THEY CAME FROM... HE SAVED MY LITTLE TANYA!

I'LL NEVER FORGET HIM FOR THIS... NEVER!!

"FOR ALL HIS UN-SMILING FORMALITY, HERR ANDERSSSEN WAS NOT ENTIRELY WITHOUT TALENT. HAVING ONCE BEEN A PHYSICIAN! HE BANDAGED THE STRANGE LACERATIONS ON MY FLESH... THOSE MYSTERIOUS WOUNDS SUCH AS NO LIVING MAN HAD EVER SEEN BEFORE... BUT HE DID NOT HIDE HIS INNER DOUBTS FROM MY FATHER..."

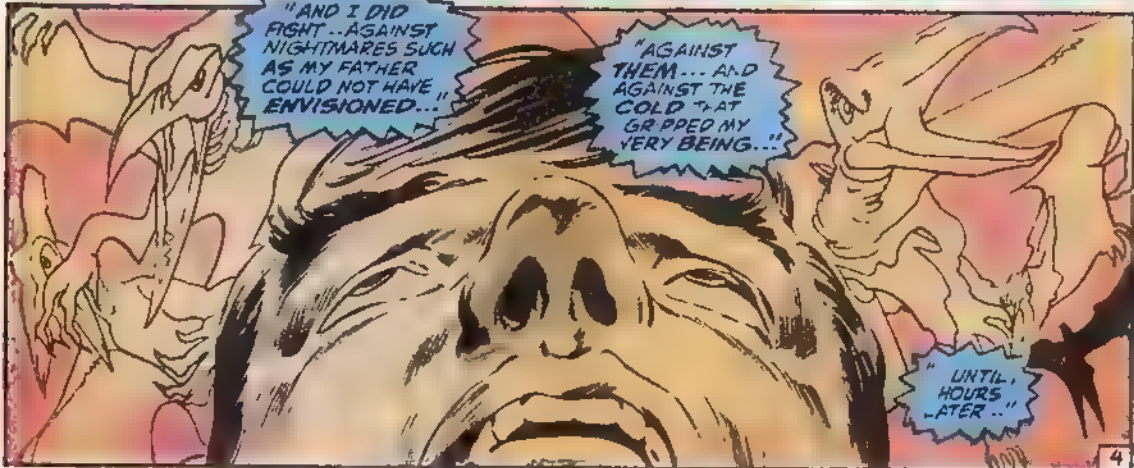
HE IS FEVERISH, HERR LYKOS... AND MAY NOT LAST THE NIGHT!



NO!

ALL MY PLANS... ALL MY DREAMS HAVE BEEN FOR HIM... ONLY FOR HIM!

FIGHT, MY SON... FIGHT AGAINST THE SHADOWS THAT SURROUND YOU!



"AND I DID FIGHT... AGAINST NIGHTMARES SUCH AS MY FATHER COULD NOT HAVE ENVISIONED..."

"AGAINST THEM... AND AGAINST THE COLD THAT GRIPPED MY VERY BEING..."

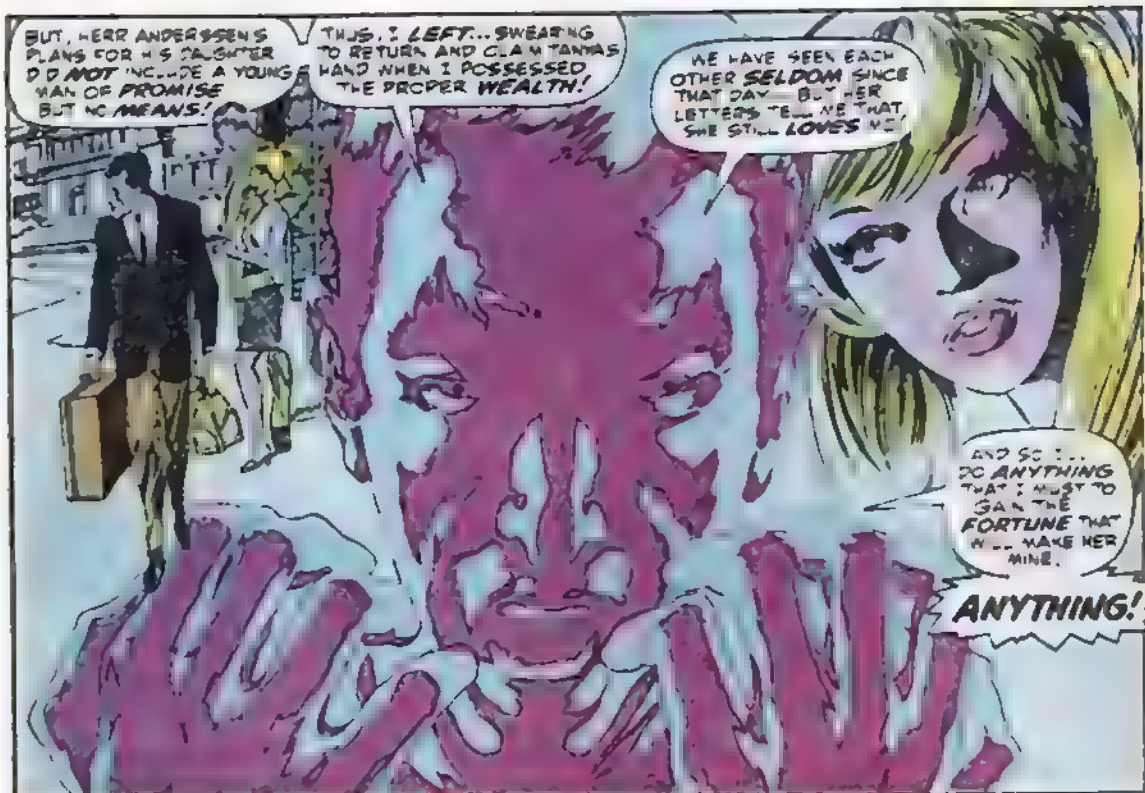
"UNTIL... HOURS LATER..."

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BUT, HERR ANDERSSSEN'S PLANS FOR HIS DAUGHTER DID NOT INCLUDE A YOUNG MAN OF PROMISE BUT NO MEANS!

THUS, I LEFT... SWEARING TO RETURN AND CLAIM TANNAS' HAND WHEN I POSSESSED THE PROPER WEALTH!

WE HAVE SEEN EACH OTHER SELDOM SINCE THAT DAY... BUT HER LETTERS TELL ME THAT SHE STILL LOVES ME!

AND SO... DO ANYTHING THAT I MUST TO GAIN THE FORTUNE THAT WILL MAKE HER MINE.

ANYTHING!

"I LABORED HARD AT MEDICAL SCHOOL, AND AFTER TO BECOME A SUCCESS! BUT FATE PLAYED A MALABRE GAME WITH ME... FOR, AS I GREW OLDER, MY NEED FOR PURIFIED HUMAN ENERGY BECAME GREATER... EVER GREATER! ALL MY MONEY, ALL MY RESOURCES, WERE SPENDED AT THE EVER MORE ELABORATE ELECTRONIC APPARATUS NEEDED MERELY TO KEEP ME ALIVE, BY ROBBING MY HYPOTIZED PATIENTS OF THEIR VITALITY... THEIR RAW ENERGY..."



BUT ALWAYS I KNEW THAT HUMAN MUTANTS WERE THE ANSWER TO MY DILEMMA!

CHARLES XAVIER WISHED TO FIND SUCH SPECIMENS AT AN EARLY AGE TRAIN THEM!

BUT I SECRETLY WANTED THEM FOR A QUITE DIFFERENT PURPOSE.

FOR THE MORE-THAN-HUMAN ENERGY WHICH THEY COULD PROVIDE ME!

ALEX SUMMERS MUST BE ONE OF THOSE WHOM XAVIER SOUGHT... AND FOUND!

FOR AS NEVER BEFORE I CAN FEEL ENERGY... YOUTHFUL VIGOR... FLOODING INTO MY EVERY PORE!

AND... I CAN FEEL POWER SUCH AS NO MAN HAS EVER KNOWN!





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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SHOP BY MAIL

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CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 608

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 - ☐ More Solid Weight
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WHAT?? ANOTHER
MUTANT...
THE ONE CALLED THE
ANGEL!

I **SENSED**
THAT YOU MIGHT
SEEK ME OUT
IN TIME...

BUT THIS IS
BEYOND MY
WILDEST EX-
PECTATIONS!

YOU TALK
BIG BEHIND
THAT FRIGHT-
MASK, GRUE-
SOME!

LET'S SEE HOW
YOU BRAG AFTER
A RUN-IN WITH THE
KAMIKAZE
KID!

YOU WILL NEVER
KNOW, MUTANT...
AFTER YOU LOOK
INTO MY EYES!

YOUR EYES?
YOU GOTTA BE
KIDDIN'!

SURE, I'LL
LOOK INTO 'EM...
AND THEN I'M
GONNA...

YOUR EYES!
YOUR
EYES....!!

NEXT:
THE
**ICY GRIP
OF DEATH!**

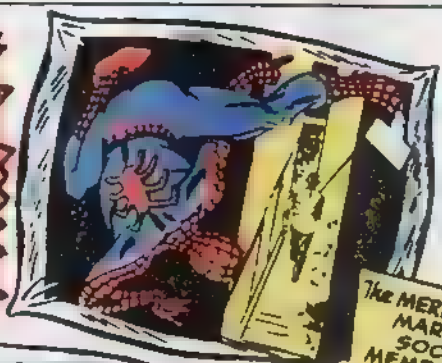


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With KARATE you can disarm an opponent holding you with his fist, a broken bottle, a revolver, or any kind of bludgeon. You can turn an aggressor's attack into your advantage with only your bare hands, your eyes and your legs.

MASTER EVERY SITUATION

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NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Stan, Roy, and other contributors to the X-MEN,

In an effort to determine just why the X-Men have not succeeded as successfully as other characters in the Marvel line, I have just re-read all of their adventures from the mid-point in their careers: issue #27. Since that time, a myriad of opportunities have arisen in the unfoldings of their conflicts, most of them unresolved.

At one point, Roy seemed to have decided a romantic conflict between Jean, Warren, and Scott might intersect the needed personality such as that which made Spider-Man so popular. When that did not seem on the right track, emphasis shifted to girlfriends for Bobby and Hank and a newfound girlfriend for Warren who came out of his past. This new girl lasted about two issues and suddenly disappeared forever. Along about that time, Factor Three was dogging the mutants' footsteps, and, though Bobby and Hank's girls did re-appear, they did not develop into anything spectacular.

At about this time, the origins of the X-Men began to appear. This, at last, I thought at the time, would delve into the history of these mutants. And they did. Certain episodes contained some of the best scenes ever in the pages of the X-MEN. Yet, there was something lacking. Professor Xavier's Brand-Echhish maneuver of brain-washing entire towns into forgetting the mutants existed begged disbelief. Did Roy Thomas actually think this possible — that no one would remember, that segments of lives could be wiped totally clean without possibility of remembrance? Yet this need never happen again — for just when the X-Men were about to discover their "own thing", the Professor died.

In the few issues after that, there was a chance that the X-Men were going to turn into something definitely unique. Yes, I can hear your argument now, "You mean to say a group of people with wings and eye-blasts aren't unique?" But, in the land of comic strips, unfortunately, they aren't so rare. The funeral scene was well-handled, by the way.

But, bad fortune, or scripting for that matter, plagued the X-Men and they were swept up into another fiasco with Magneto. Things looked pretty bleak until that issue the Angel returned to their deserted school. Arnold Drake delivered some of the best lines ever to grace the pages of the X-MEN through Warren's thoughts of the X-Men's past. Jim Steranko pitched into the fray to uplift the mutants' image for two issues. The Angel for the first time appeared to have wings of weight and dimension. The Iceman reflected diamond-like angles. And yet another plot direction was presented in the form of Lorna Dane. This also, as the others, was never utilized. Now, at the present, another newcomer, Scott's brother, is introduced. Perhaps this will fade as quickly as the other ideas.

All of this has been to lead to this:

1. The X-Men's conflict with ordinary humans should be emphasized, but not in the general terms as it has been in the past. Weave ordinary people and their reactions to the mutants who have more than human abilities into the stories.

2. Develop ideas already presented: Warren's scarcely seen girl from the past, the X-Men's own feelings to these powers they possess, their family life, their search for a place in society, and the relationship between Scott and Jean. For one issue, there seemed a chance that they were going to mold their own individuality when Scott posed as a newscaster and Jean as a model, but that faded without any exploration. So, there is one observation and some suggestions. Think about them; some of them might have

some merit.

Donald F. McGregor, 43 Wildwood Ave.
Providence, R. I. 02907

Indeed they might, Don, if we could just find the time and space to work them out! Truth to tell, we've been so busy getting our mutant heroes in and out of hot water these past few issues — with hardly a moment's breathing space between stories, that opportunities for character development outside their costumed lives have been virtually nil.

Matter of fact, Neal and Roy sat down just last night and figured out (on fingers and toes, no doubt) that these last seven issues of X-MEN (#s 54-60) have all occurred in roughly the space of a week. At that rate, it's gonna be about twenty years (our time) before anybody notices that Scott and Jean haven't shown up for work! Excelsior, pal!



Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

Neal Adams does just one thing for the X-MEN: he makes it the best drawn of all the Marvel comics. That's right, Kirbyites! He is the best artist ever to draw the X-MEN, and in my opinion, nobody comes near him in sheer excellence.

I must also commend the talented Mr. Palmer. His inking style is very similar to Mr. Adams' own style, but a little bit cleaner. Together they turned out the best artwork ever to be seen in the X-MEN (or any other Marvel mag).

All in all, X-MEN #56 was a landmark issue. No, I didn't forget Mr. Thomas or Mr. Cooper. The story was as fine as the lettering.

In closing I'd like to say that you can have your Kirby's, Smiths, and Sterankos. I'm sticking with Adams!

Ed Shea, 73 W. Main St.
Plainville, Conn. 06062

We're quite content to stick to nefarious Neal ourselves, Ed — but you don't mind if we enjoy a few also-exquisite renderings by Kirby, Smith, and Steranko along the way, do you? After all, that's what makes horse-racing ... not to mention the capricious comic-mag industry!

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Dear Sir,

I would be interested in giving the true facts or explanation of the word mutant, as I am a science buff who went to college. The explanation given by George Kennedy in X-MEN #55 was only a half truth which I'd like to correct.

"A mutation is a change that alters or increases a person's abilities or mental characteristics and caused by developing a new gland or drug in the brain or body or being affected by some powerful force or energy on the cells or genes of the individual." (A mutant being the individual affected.)

There are four different kinds of mutants. Type 1 (a pre-birth mutant) is someone whose cells are altered because one of the parents absorbed too much radiation or was affected by powerful energy, and their children's cells were altered by the energy so the mutant characteristic was caused or developed before birth. A good example of this is the Beast.

Type 2: (a delayed reaction mutant) is someone who had the mutation source at birth but didn't develop the mutant characteristic or power till later in life (usually when as a child or when he starts growing up). Good examples of these are the late Professor X, Cyclops, Angel, Iceman, and Lorna Dane.

Type 3: (a mento-physical mutant) is an individual who either develops a mutation gland in the brain or is altered by a chemical that increases the person's mental or physical capabilities and may occur at any time. Good examples of these are Marvel Girl, Alex Summers, and Daredevil.

Type 4: (an absorptive mutant) is someone who is altered by absorbing some outside energy source as an adult. Good examples of this are the Fantastic Four and Spider-Man.

Richard Yarmy, 11325 Euclid Ave., Rm. 813
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Thanks, Rich, for that erudite elucidation. However, if we get any more conflicting explanations of mutant types here at Marvel, we're gonna have to buy a new filing cabinet just to keep 'em straight! It makes us feel kind'a good, though; after all, if you science buffs can't agree on what a mutant is and is not, maybe nobody will hold a poor volunteer-workin' Bullpen for a goof or two!



Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

X-MEN #56 was a milestone — and Neal Adams has got to be the most spectacular artist to pencil the X-MEN since it started! You have a most X-traordinary penciller in Mr. Adams. It is a real pleasure to see that you have finally got Mr. Adams to do some art for you. I have followed his work with competing companies, and I feel he is a great catch — and will become one of Marvel's top artists. Neal did some writing with your competitors that was quite good — I hope he will be able to write some stories as well as pencil for Marvel.

The X-Men have come a long way in the last year. Lorna should become a frequent guest star with her powers more defined. Scott's brother is quite an addition to the story, and I hope he stays around for a long time. If the present rate of improvement is kept up, the X-MEN will become one of your top five mags in no time.

I have just one gripe: your villains have been absolutely terrible lately. The villains should be more like Magneto, or perhaps even the Blob. Basically, just improve them. Bring back Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch, hopefully on the side of the X-Men. In closing, what can I say? The proper words of praise just do not exist in the English language.

Michael R. Arndt, 412 E. Olive St.
Decatur, Ill.

Keep trying, Mike — we're willing to wait while you keep looking for 'em!

Meanwhile, you've gotten your wish to see at least a token appearance by Wanda and Pietro... and there'll be more of those two in the future, though not necessarily in the places where you'd most expect them to pop up!

As for villains, how did the sizzling Sentinels grab you — or the somewhat sinister Sauron, this ish?

In other words, keep reading, friend — we've miles to go before we sleep, and about a zillion promises to keep to X-Men enthusiasts the Free World over!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

WOW! Everything about X-MEN #56 was perfect! I was absolutely stunned by your new man, Neal Adams, doing his penciling. His figures surge with stark realism and life-like postures. Adams makes use of lighting like a master. Tom Palmer enhanced Neal's work beautifully, especially on the features of the Living Pharaoh. As far as coloring went, the scheme was fantastic — providing that Marvel is truly making comics an aristocratic medium. (Whom do I compliment for the cover?) I thought it was a brilliant piece of work using the red and white contrast so well. Your boys in the color separation department are really on the ball! So much for the artistic merits of the comic.

Row (The Boy) Thomas did a great job of plotting and scripting. He certainly has mastered "tight writing". I don't think there was one wasted word in the whole story. He is following in good faith the path that Stan Lee blazed during the Second Golden Age of Marvel in 1961-62 with the creation of a great line-up. I found few mistakes, many of them minuscule things like incontinuity of color — but that is to be expected (yes, even in a Marvel mag).

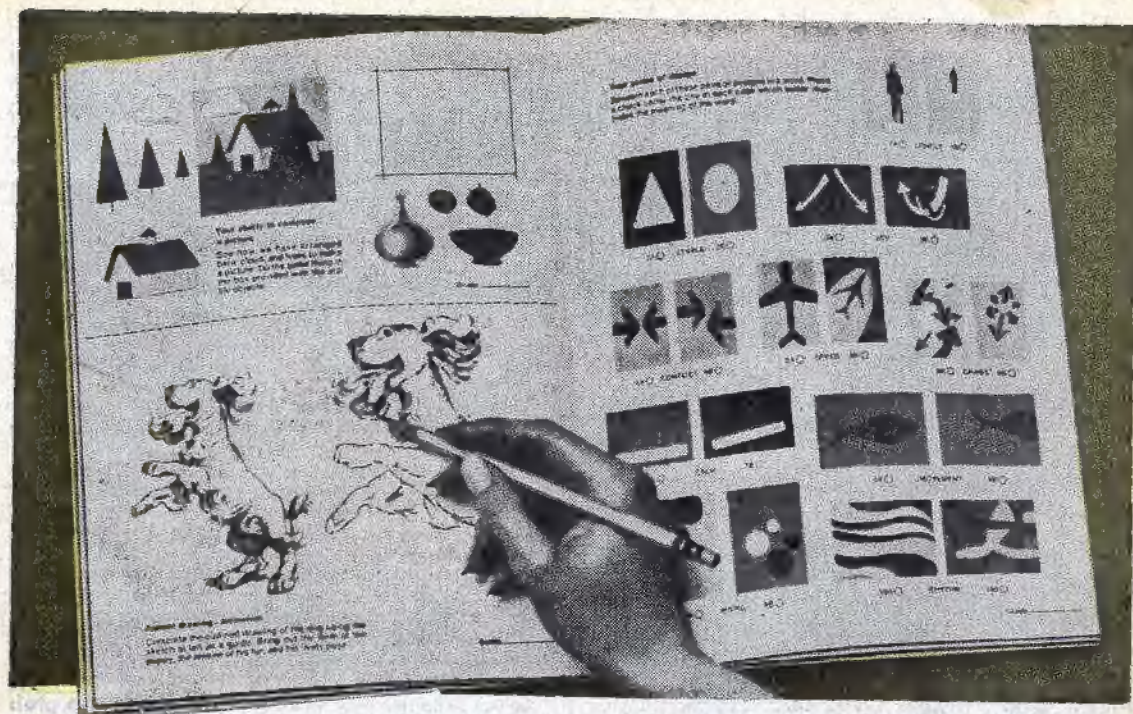
Eric Nash, 100 Bleeker St.
New York, N. Y. 10012

You had to bring us down with that last sentence, didn't you, buddy?

Oh well, after your kind words about his penciling, we're sure that Neal Adams, artist, will forgive you! But Neal Adams, colorist, may never speak to you again! "Incontinuity of color", indeed!

As to the cover you mention, it was both penciled and inked by the artful Mr. Adams... but the identity of the staffer who colored and recolored it is lost in antiquity. You can't win 'em all, Mr. Nash!

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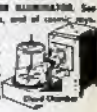
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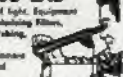
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